

What is Claimed is:

1. A method of identifying agents which increase or decrease processing of amyloid precursor protein into amyloid β peptides found in neuritic plaques and vascular deposits that accumulate in brains of patients with Alzheimer's disease comprising:

contacting NT2N cells with a compound or agent suspected of increasing or decreasing amyloid precursor protein processing; and

10 measuring levels of amyloid β peptides formed in the endoplasmic reticulum of the cells.

Sub A4
2. A method of diagnosing Alzheimer's disease in a patient comprising detecting in the patient an agent identified to 15 increase processing of amyloid precursor protein into amyloid β peptides found in neuritic plaques and vascular deposits that accumulate in brains of patients with Alzheimer's disease in accordance with the method of claim 1.

3. A method of inhibiting processing of amyloid precursor 20 protein into amyloid β peptides found in neuritic plaques and vascular deposits that accumulate in brains of patients with Alzheimer's disease comprising administering to the patient an agent which decreases 25 processing of amyloid precursor protein into amyloid β peptides found in neuritic plaques and vascular deposits that accumulate in brains of patients with Alzheimer's disease wherein said agent is identified in accordance with the method of claim 1.

Add B1

Add B2